

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

We write to follow up on the unanswered letter dated February 3, 2021 to Acting Secretary Shea urging the swift distribution of the \$200 million provided to USDA in the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act* for relief for the timber harvesting and hauling industry.

While we were pleased to learn “timber harvesting and hauling” will be included in the “USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers” program, three months have already passed since the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act* was signed into law. During those three months, many of our loggers and haulers continued to deal with the economic challenges created by the ongoing pandemic. Sadly, some have made the hard decision to cease operations. Any further delay in distributing relief dollars, will only push the industry further to the brink, threatening the survival of hundreds of logging and hauling businesses across North Carolina and the rural communities they support.

We urge you to use all available tools to provide relief for timber harvesters and haulers as expeditiously as possible. Should you identify any hurdles that impede your ability to distribute relief quickly, please let us know so that we may be of assistance in resolving them. Additionally, in reply to this letter, we respectfully request you include an expected timeline for the release of funds for timber harvesting and hauling relief.

We appreciate your attention to this important and urgent matter.

Sincerely,



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Richard Burr  
United States Senator



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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



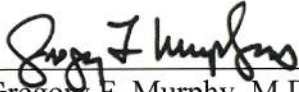
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G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



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David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress